

My Great Champion and Beloved Mother,

I write to you from beneath a grim low-hanging cloud which conspires to sap the morale of our cousins as the autumn rains drag on. My company has engaged the Lion in a dozen skirmishes over the past months yet they remain undeterred in their reckless aggression. Our numbers dwindle while theirs continue to be fortified by a seemingly endless supply of reserves, and our samurai are beginning to grow weary of the constant traveling as our army and those of the Lion pursue each other in search of a strategic advantage that rarely manifests. As the fighting has dragged on, victory remains further and further out of sight.

General Ikoma Tsanuri leads a large contingent of samurai and ashigaru and has not hesitated to push forward into our lands, taking each village she descends upon. We have lost Springbloom Village, Ashige Village, and now Onon Village to her armies. Shinjo Hideo-sama has led our Miname Kaze company with great effectiveness aided by Governor Moto Juro, and thus the other nearby villages of Hisu Mori Village and Selenge Village have remained safe. But we are not meant to sit behind walls and withstand a besieging army. If we do not cut off General Tsanuri's armies from their supply lines and overwhelm them with our prowess on the field, I fear that they may advance into the heart of Ikoku Province and deprive our clan of much-needed supplies for taxes and for the oncoming winter.

In an attempt to disrupt the Lion's war effort, Hideo-sama sent the vanguard of the Miname Kaze south to confront the legions of the Akodo on the Plains of Bloodied Honor. A fortnight ago they clashed with the meager Lion defenses, and would have easily captured both Four Roads Village and Fallen Oak Village had General Akodo Kyōsuke not interceded unexpectedly with reserve forces from Hayaken no Shiro. Despite the bravery of Shinjo Kyōra in her glorious skirmish against four of Kyōsuke's finest samurai at the Gentle Waters gates, we were unable to press through Kyōsuke's swift and disciplined defense. The battle lasted six days before the Miname Kaze regulars finally retreated in defeat.

Any contingents of the Blue Horde that can be spared to aid us in overtaking General Kyōsuke's defenses would be most welcome in these dim hours. And as I have heard rumors that you are now personally leading the Horde, it would bring me great joy to see my mother once again and fight by her side. Your courage and prowess are spoken of with great reverence among my company, and it would be a blessing of Amaterasu should the winds bring you to inspire us once again.

*Your son,
Shinjo Yasamura*